

North Dakota State Engineer's Professionalism Award Nomination

Name of Nominee: James T Fay

Nominated By: Bruce Engelhardt

In the space provided, please complete a detailed documentation of the nominee's accomplishments relevant to the questions. Please only complete questions that you are knowledgeable of on the nominee.

- 1 Describe how the nominee has routinely demonstrated the ability to perform high-quality work while supporting the Office of the State Engineer/State Water Commission's mission and goals.

Tim Fay has worked for the North Dakota State Water Commission for the last 30 years. In his career with the Water Commission, Tim has held various positions. He has been the Investigations Section's Chief, SWPP's manager, Engineering Manager for the Survey crew and a mentor for other engineers within and outside the agency.

Tim is the Water Commission's expert in surface water hydrology and hydraulics. He provides his expertise in these areas for dam safety, dam design, floodplain management, flood response, as well as investigations.

- 2 Share examples of how the nominee has consistently demonstrated concern toward fellow employees and unselfishly offered assistance when help is needed.

One of Tim's strongest points is his willingness to volunteer for any task. Tim has gone above the call of duty by volunteering his efforts to ensuring training and assistance to other engineers and others willing to learn. Tim volunteered his effort and experience during the flood event this spring. Tim is especially concerned with the well being of his colleagues and the stranger on the street.

Over the years Tim has researched, provided, and presented a host of training sessions. When engineers start with the Water Commission Tim, willingly, takes the lead to provide training on hydraulics and hydrology. If there are subjects or technologies that Tim thinks would benefit the Water Commission he coordinates to either get the subject matter presented to the Water Commission or arranges for a staff member to attend a formal training. An example of Tim coordinating training is the session that will be held on January 6, 2009. Tim has coordinated with the North Central River Forecast Center of the National Weather Service to educate Water Commission Staff on the processes used in flood forecasting.

The immensity of 2009 Spring Floods taxed Water Commission Staff. Tim was invaluable during this hard time. He often volunteered for graveyard, weekend and holiday shifts at the Emergency Operation Center. As the floods intensified several dams were threatened requiring 24/7 monitoring. Cottonwood Creek Dam was one of these dams. Not only did Tim volunteer his assistance in monitoring this dam he took the graveyard shift. Tim got

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word after approximately 30 + hours of no sleep that he was a new grandpa! He came back to Bismarck where he afforded only a brief stop to see his new grandbaby then went down to the Emergency Operation Center and worked on a HEC-RAS model to obtain the impacts of dam failure of the another threatened dam, the Claussen Springs Dam, when he was finally told to go home and get some sleep.

Not only does Tim go above the call of duty at work, he also is very concerned about the well being of his colleagues, and mankind in general. Tim is always putting the needs of others ahead of his own. This fall, in the unfortunate passing of Ron Swanson, Tim stepped up to be the point person for the Water Commission in contacting Ron's family and keeping the Water Commission staff informed on details of Ron's Memorial Service. Another incident of note, Tim noticed out the window someone lying on the grass across the street, he did not hesitate and directly walked over to inquire if the individual was ok. He was not and Tim called 911 to get paramedics on their way.

3 How has the nominee dependably carried out job tasks, taken the initiative to complete work in a timely manner, and exhibited a positive attitude toward the work he/she performs?

Tim's attitude toward his work and fellow employees is unwavering, he confronts every assignment given to him with a cheerful and positive outlook. His positive attitude influences the atmosphere of the investigations section for the better.

Tim has taken the initiative and has coordinated with the Army Corp of Engineers in developing a HEC-RAS model for the Pembina River, as well as managing the survey crew, conducting other engineering studies, and reviewing flood plain management studies. Furthermore, Tim has taken the initiative to work with Board of Registration to understand the requirements for continuing education for engineers and helped to make sure the engineers working for the Water Commission met the requirements.

4 Describe how the nominee has fostered a cooperative, respectful, and mutually satisfying work relationship with other employees and the public.

Tim has fostered a good working relationship with other employees, the public, and professionals from other organizations. Tim is a great believer in public service, and is always thinking of the public good for the citizens of North Dakota. Tim is respected by the water boards he works with, the statewide engineering community, and other governmental agencies. His willingness to help and educate fellow workers encourages other employees to work with him.

Tim has worked extensively with many federal agencies including the St. Paul District of the Corps of Engineers, the USGS, the NRCS, and the National Weather Service. His expertise in hydrology, hydraulics, modeling, and flood forecasting is greatly respected by

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the professionals in these agencies and they seek his input and listen to his suggestions.

During the floods this spring, Tim was instrumental in providing the survey crew to the USGS and National Weather Service in gathering important data. Data that was collected for the USGS included surveying high water marks in Bismarck and Linton, and surveying temporary gage station locations. Extensive statewide snow samples were taken and provided to the National Weather Service under Tim's direction. Tim took the lead in putting together additional snow sampling equipment and coordinating the snow sampling effort with the Weather Service and the Corps of Engineers.

Because of Tim's personable demeanor he is often the Water Commissions first point of contact for the public. Often times someone will call or come in that has met or seen Tim before, and approach Tim for help. Tim willingly directs the person to the staff that will be most beneficial in solving the person problem.

5 Describe a work product created by the nominee, which has helped the Office of the State Engineer/State Water Commission improve services, internally and/or externally?

Tim investigates, and encourages use of new technologies, methods and studies that will make the work of the State Water Commission more meaningful, accurate and efficient.

A common practice of late is to cover low head dams with rock piles for fish passage as well as increasing safety for recreators. The North Dakota Century Code Section 61-16.2 states, "uses shall be permitted within the floodway to the extent that they do not cause any measurable decrease in the hydraulic conveyance in the affected area." The question has risen whether these rock piles affect conveyance of the channel. Tim has coordinated with the North Dakota State Water Commissioners and the University of North Dakota graduate program to do a study evaluating the effects these rock piles have on the flow capacity of the channel.

It came Tim's attention that there was a need for equipment that would collect river/lake bottom data. Tim facilitated the research of the best products available, and was instrumental in receiving funding so that the Water Commission could purchase such equipment that was compatible with the Water Commissions state of the art GPS survey equipment. Now the Water Commission has capabilities of developing bottom profiles of lakes and rivers, this data will be extremely beneficial in developing models, and in decision making processes.

Tim has conducted several formal training sessions that not only provided valuable learning opportunities but also helped engineers meet the continuing education requirements for registration. These training sessions were attended not only by state employees but also by engineers working in the private sector. By offering these classes the service of not only the SWC and DOT were improved, but the service provided to the State and other customers by consulting engineering firms was also improved.

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Tim was also an asset in providing background information and education that assisted the State in a victory in the Aasumstad Case.

6 Describe an advancement the nominee has made that has had a significant positive impact on the quality of services rendered, and/or on the Office of the State Engineer/State Water Commission's reputation.

Tim has tested many the Hydrologic Engineering Center's (HEC) programs for the Water Commission over the years. When HEC puts out a new program Tim is excited to try it out, explore any new features, and identify problems with the program. Through his contacts with the HEC and the St. Paul District of the Corps he is able to get assistance in running new models and provides feedback to the HEC on any problems with the model. Once he understands the model he is willing and able to assist others both, both Water Commission staff and others in the engineering community, with understanding the model.

Through Tim's affability the Water Commission has gained the trust and respect through his relations with the public, engineers, and other agencies. Throughout the floods this spring Tim was often sought out to answer water related questions by all those listed above. Many positive comments could be heard from other agency staff at the Emergency Service Center regarding Tim.

Tim's communication skills are a great asset to the Water Commission. Not only does he assist in writing and reviewing a great deal of material prepared by the SWC, several times in the past has served as the Master of Ceremonies for the annual NDSPE chapter 3 banquet. At these events, a large number of the local engineers are given a good impression of the SWC staff by listening to Tim.

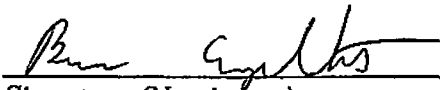
7 List any steps the nominee has taken for self improvement.

Tim is an avid pupil. He is continually reading many subjects from math books to the survey history of North Dakota. Tim searches out and takes online training courses and when they are available he attends formal training courses.

In addition to Tim being an avid learner, he hosts training sessions with the knowledge that he has gained.

Tim keeps up with computer technology and is always finding ways to improve himself.

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Signature (Nominator)

1/5/10

Date